

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 15, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 15, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VITO FOSSELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Richard P. Camp, Jr., Executive Director of A Christian Ministry in the National Parks and formerly Chaplain, United States Military Academy, offered the following prayer:

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

We pause a moment, Heavenly Father, before the business of this day, to acknowledge You. Your love surrounds us, Your mercy upholds us, Your goodness blesses us.

Graciously give to the Members and all who serve in this House the wisdom and courage to lead us in the way of righteousness and peace. May the ripple effect of their decisions bring hope to all people for generations to come.

In Your strong name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute at the end of legislative business today.

SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK RELIEF ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Com-

mittee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 89 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 89

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 327) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 1 pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII. Each section of that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 89 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform.

The rule provides that it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1. The rule further provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be open for amendment by section.

Finally, the rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 327 is to facilitate compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses.

This bill is similar to legislation passed by the House in the 106th Congress but on which the Senate failed to act. However, this year's bill omits language contained in the earlier version which limited the imposition of civil penalties on small businesses for certain first-time violations.

In addition, H.R. 327 requires the director of the Office of Management and Budget to publish annually in the Federal Register a list of requirements applicable to small businesses with respect to the collection of information by Federal agencies, so that small businesses can easily inform themselves about these requirements.

The bill also requires that all such information be made available on the Internet.

H.R. 327 would require every Federal agency to establish a single point of contact between the agency and small businesses.

Finally, the bill requires each Federal agency to make additional efforts to reduce the paperwork burdens on small businesses with fewer than 25 employees.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime small business owner myself, I can assure my colleagues that this is a bill whose time has come. It is hard enough for most small businesses to comply with the paperwork requirements that they know about, but it is the requirements that we do not know about that can really come back to haunt us.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Large firms have in-house accounting, legal, and reporting compliance personnel that are beyond the means of small businesses. I know firsthand the costs and difficulty of wading through time-consuming, duplicative, and sometimes unnecessary paperwork.

Small business men and women should not have to sacrifice productivity in order to complete endless forms when paperwork requirements can easily be streamlined.

For years small businesses have created the largest share of new jobs in our economy. We should act today to reduce their paperwork burden so that they can continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, because H.R. 327 was not reported by a committee, no official cost estimate is available. However, the Committee on Government Reform did receive a preliminary estimate from the Congressional Budget Office which stated that the bill, and I quote, "would result in minimal costs for Federal agencies each year because the bill would not affect direct spending or governmental receipts. Pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply."

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying legislation, H.R. 327.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this open rule and the underlying bill. It is noncontroversial. Concerns that were raised during consideration of the measure regarding civil penalties during the last Congress have been addressed.

The business community has often voiced concern about the burden of government regulations and the resulting paperwork. In response to this concern, Congress has passed paperwork reduction legislation such as the Paperwork Reduction Act, PRA, and the Small Business Reporting Enforcement Fairness Act.

Moreover, the last administration streamlined regulations by reinventing government and implementing many of the recommendations made by the White House Conference on Small Businesses.

The measure before us today, H.R. 327, continues this effort to reduce unnecessary paperwork for small businesses.

There are a number of provisions in H.R. 327 to address streamlining paperwork that bear mentioning. They require agencies to publish annually paperwork requirements on small businesses, to establish a small business liaison, to make efforts to reduce further the paperwork burden on small businesses with fewer than 25 employees, and to establish a task force to study the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements.

Again, I know of no opposition to this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the rule for this good government bill to streamline and reduce paperwork burdens on small businesses, that is, H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act.

H.R. 327 includes helpful provisions for small businesses, including a requirement for the Office of Management and Budget to annually publish in the Federal Register and on the Internet an identification of each agency's Federal paperwork requirements for small businesses; a requirement for each agency to establish a single point of contact for small businesses; a requirement for each agency to make further efforts to reduce paperwork for small businesses with fewer than 25 employees; and to establish an inter-agency task force to study streamlining of paperwork requirements for small businesses.

CBO, as the gentleman from Washington has said, has scored this as having a minimal cost for Federal agencies each year. It is time for us to move forward on doing this. I support the open rule.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I think my colleagues have covered the rule very well. I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the Committee on Rules for bringing an open rule down to the floor.

I think the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) have covered the bill rather well.

There are 24 million small business people in this country that have been suffering dramatically under the burden of overregulation and paperwork. This bill takes a giant step toward eliminating a lot of the problems they face.

This is supported strongly by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I think it is a great bill. Its time has come, as the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) has said.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Pursuant to House Resolution 89 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 327.

□ 1013

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 327) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, with Mr. FOSSELLA in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 327.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act was introduced by the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON) on January 31, 2001.

This good government bill continues congressional efforts to streamline and reduce paperwork burdens on small businesses.

During the 105th and 106th Congresses, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight reported out bills H.R. 3310 and H.R. 391, respectively, that passed the House by votes of 267 to 140 and 274 to 151, respectively.

□ 1015

These earlier bills included all of the substantive provisions in H.R. 327. However, unlike the predecessor bills, H.R. 327 does not include any provisions relating to the waiver of sanctions for first-time violations by small businesses of Federal paperwork requirements.

H.R. 327 includes the following helpful provisions for small businesses.

First, a requirement for the Office of Management and Budget to annually publish in the Federal Register and on the Internet an identification of each agency's Federal paperwork requirements for small businesses.

Second, a requirement for each agency to establish a single point of contact for small businesses.

Third, a requirement for each agency to make further efforts to reduce paperwork for small businesses with fewer than 25 employees.

Fourth, a requirement to establish an interagency task force to study streamlining of paperwork requirements for small businesses.

H.R. 327 asks this task force to consider having each agency consolidate its reporting requirements for small businesses, resulting in reporting to the agency's single point of contact, in a single format or using a single electronic reporting system, and on one date.

The definition of small business in this bill is the one used in the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C., subsection 631 et seq.

H.R. 327 amends the Paperwork Reduction Act, the successor to the Federal Reports Act of 1942, which began the requirement for OMB approval before paperwork could be imposed on nine or more members of the public. The 1980 Paperwork Reduction Act which established the office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in OMB began by stating "information needed by Federal agencies shall be obtained with a minimum burden upon business enterprises, especially small business enterprises, and other persons required to furnish the information and at a minimum cost to the government."

The 1995 reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act set 10 percent and 5 percent goals for paperwork reduction each year from 1996 to 2001.

OMB's most recent estimate of Federal paperwork burden on the public is 7.2 billion hours annually, at a cost of \$190 billion a year. Despite the statutory requirements for annual reductions in paperwork burden, there have been annual increases, instead of annual decreases, in paperwork in each of the last 5 years. Those being from 1996 to 2000.

OMB's April 2000 report to Congress entitled the Information Collection Budget of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2000 does not identify any interagency efforts to streamline paperwork requirements on small businesses. Also, although Congress required OMB to provide an analysis of impacts of Federal regulation on small business, OMB's June 2000 "Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulations: 2000" devotes less than one page to the impact of Federal regulatory and paperwork burdens on small businesses.

H.R. 327 has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Na-

tional Association of Manufacturers, the National Federation of Independent Business, the National Small Business United, the Small Business Coalition for Regulatory Relief, the Small Business Legislative Council, the Small Business Survival Committee, the Academy of General Dentistry, Agriculture Retailers Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, Associated Builders and Contractors, the Associated General Contractors, the Automotive Parts and Service Alliance, the Food Marketing Institute, GrassRoots Impact Inc., the National Association of Convenience Stores, the National Automobile Dealers Association, the National Business Association, the National Pest Management Association, the National Restaurant Association, the National Roofing Contractors Association, the National Tooling and Machining Association, the North American Equipment Dealers Association, and the Society of American Florists.

Mr. Chairman, I have introduced an amendment in the nature of a substitute which includes provisions requested by the Government Reform Minority, or the Committee on Small Business. Specifically, calling for, first, a clarification that was added that the annual list of requirements applicable to small businesses shall be organized so that small businesses can easily identify requirements with which they are expected to comply; second, the Department of Treasury was added to the membership of the interagency task force since the IRS accounts for nearly 80 percent of all paperwork burden on the public; third, a clarification was added that the consolidation requirements on small businesses shall not negatively impact the effectiveness of the underlying laws; fourth, the task force's report shall be submitted not only to Congress but also to OMB; and, fifth, a requirement was added to the task force to report in 2 years on recommendations for interactive, electronic recording with on-line editing, electronic dissemination and coordination across agencies so that agency single points of contact can provide small businesses with information from other agencies.

In addition, the Small Business Committee stressed that, first, the interagency task force should reach out to actual small businesses for their views and recommendations, and that agencies should create user-friendly Web sites for small businesses, including links to each agency's reporting requirements for small businesses and organized, where possible, by the North American Industrial Classification System formally known as the SIC codes.

Small businesses are particularly hurt by regulatory and paperwork burden. The Small Business Administra-

tion estimates that it costs large firms \$3,400 per employee to comply with Federal regulatory and paperwork requirements. However, the costs to small businesses is 50 percent greater, a staggering \$5,100 per employee. Not only are such costs higher for small businesses, but clearly they are also harder to absorb.

Small businesses cannot afford to comply with Federal requirements in the same way that large businesses can. The high costs of such requirements often makes it impossible for small businesses to expand. It threatens their ability to stay afloat or it prevents them from opening in the first place.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 327 should result in needed relief for small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 327 is a substantial improvement over the small business paperwork bills that were considered by the House in the last two Congresses because in the last two Congresses, these contained controversial penalty provisions, and they have since been removed. This bill includes provisions suggested by the Democratic minority that will reduce the paperwork burden on truly small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, small businesses as everyone is familiar with, are the backbone of the economy and, now, are where the new jobs are being created. However, many small- and family-owned businesses spend a great deal of their resources learning about and complying with applicable laws.

I am very pleased that we are looking at ways to make it easier for small businesses to understand what information they are required to provide and the ways to simplify and streamline the paperwork process.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 327, as amended, requires the Office of Management and Budget to annually produce a list of information collection requirements applicable to small businesses and to do that in a manner that is useful to small businesses. This list must be printed in the Federal Register and on the Internet.

The bill also requires each agency to establish one point of contact to act as a liaison with small businesses.

It requires agencies to make efforts to further reduce paperwork on businesses with fewer than 25 employees.

It establishes a task force to study the feasibility of streamlining information collection and dissemination.

Mr. Chairman, 3 years ago, we considered similar provisions when we considered H.R. 3310. Unfortunately, that

bill also contained provisions that would have probably prohibited agencies from penalizing businesses for most first-time information-related violations. These provisions would remove agency discretion. It would have created a safe haven for willful, substantial, and long-standing violations.

They were obviously strongly opposed by the prior administration, by labor, environmental, consumer, senior citizen, health, trade and firefighter groups, as well as by some State attorneys general.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and I offered an amendment to address these concerns. However, the amendment failed. Because of the surrounding controversy, the bill was never considered in the Senate; and we lost a chance to implement the provisions that we are considering today.

The bill was resurrected in the next Congress as H.R. 391. The amendment of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), which fixed controversial provisions, narrowly failed by a vote of 214-210. Again, because the controversial provisions remained in the bill, it never became law.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see that H.R. 327 does not include those controversial penalty provisions and now there is a strong chance that this bill will in fact become law.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased to say that the managers amendment to H.R. 327 includes suggestions made by the Democratic minority of this committee. For instance, the task force will study the feasibility of strengthening the dissemination so that agencies can more effectively share that information with other agencies and with the public.

The task force must make recommendations for implementing an interactive system for information collection requirements so the small businesses can identify applicable requirements over the Internet.

It will provide guidelines for developing an interactive system that edits the information submitted by small businesses and checks for consistency.

It will make recommendations for electronic dissemination of collected information.

Finally, it will make recommendations for coordinating information collection between the different agencies.

Another change that was suggested by the Democratic minority clarifies that the annual list of information requirements will be produced in a manner that is useful to small businesses. The original bill required that the lists be made by statistical code; however, that list likely would not be used by small businesses, it would merely provide a statistical analysis of the quantity of information regulations.

After all, the purpose of this bill is not to count regulations but to help small businesses understand and com-

ply with the information collection requirements. The new language ensures that the list is produced in such a manner that such small business concerns can easily identify requirements with which they are expected to comply.

Further, H.R. 327 includes a provision suggested by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and it was adopted 3 years ago. And it focuses paperwork reduction on small businesses with fewer than 25 employees. This amendment directs our efforts to truly small businesses that need our help the most.

The definition of small businesses that was incorporated to H.R. 327 and was so broad that it included numerous businesses that many do not really consider as small.

It would have included petroleum refineries with up to 1500 employees, pharmaceutical companies with up to 750 employees, and banks with up to \$100 million in assets. Thus, this bill, as amended, helps most businesses not just small businesses, and I believe it is appropriate to focus the agency efforts on businesses that truly are small.

Mr. Chairman, the information collection is one of the more important jobs of the Federal Government. It allows the government to enforce the law without burdening businesses with in-depth site investigations; nevertheless, it is difficult for small businesses to fully understand what is required of them. And many businesses have expressed frustration with the fact that they provided similar information to more than one source in government.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the government should help small businesses understand their responsibilities and streamline the information collection process. This bill serves both purposes without jeopardizing the underlying protections. Furthermore, it should help us take advantage of the information age by using the Internet to gather and disseminate information. These changes have been suggested by numerous sources, including the General Accounting Office.

Mr. Chairman, it is a bit ironic that we are considering this bill to help small businesses at a time when the President has proposed cutting funding to the Small Business Administration by over 46 percent.

He has recommended eliminating the New Markets Venture Capital Program, which provides venture capital and technical assistance to small businesses in less prosperous areas in the country.

The President also recommends eliminating the BusinessLINC Program which encourages mentoring between large and small businesses. I am hoping that as the session moves forward, we will be able to deal with those matters and to truly help small businesses there, as well as with this Paperwork Reduction Act.

I am pleased that we are at least willing to consider this bill which would help small businesses comply with the law and encourage the government to take advantage of electronic reporting and reduce duplicative paperwork burdens. I urge your support for passage.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) for his efforts in helping us identify for small businesses across this country what the exact paperwork burden is that exists on them.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), my good friend and chairman of the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, for his hard work on this bill, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY). He has worked very hard on this. I would like to thank as well the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the minority member on the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very, very important bill. We talk about a lot of bills around here, Mr. Chairman, that do not seem to be very significant to the American people. But this is one that probably will not get front page across the country but it really is important.

□ 1030

We have 24 million small business people in this country, 24 million. The gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) said there was 190 billion hours that are devoted to small business paperwork. The Chamber of Commerce says that is 229 billion hours that they have to devote to paperwork for the Federal Government. My figures are 232 billion. But no matter how one cuts it, that is an awful lot of time and money that they have to spend just messing with regulations and paperwork in this country.

It costs them, as the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and others have said, on average \$5,100 per employee to comply with these regulations each year. Just think how much money we could save in this country and how much money could be turned into capital improvements and economic expansion if they did not have to spend all this time and money on paperwork.

So this bill, I think, is a very, very important bill. It will not be, like I said, front page, but I think everybody

in this country that is a small business person is going to be very, very happy that we pass it.

I might also state that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is very supportive of the bill. They have 96 percent of their members that are small business people across this country, 96 out of 100. I know that all of those people are going to be thanking the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and hopefully me as well for helping get this terrible workload off their backs so that they can make more money and help make the economy even stronger.

Mr. Chairman, I include the following letter from the Chamber of Commerce for the RECORD, as follows:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2001.

Hon. DAN BURTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BURTON: Later this week, the full U.S. House is expected to consider H.R. 327, "The Small Business Paperwork Relief Act." The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing more than three million businesses of every size, sector, and region. More than 96 percent of the U.S. Chamber's members are small businesses with 100 or fewer employees.

With the plethora of regulatory mandates on small business growing to unpredictable levels, so too is the prodigious task of filling out the required paperwork. Our nation's 23 million small businesses spent approximately 7 billion hours filling out federal paperwork in 1998, according to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The cost associated with this paperwork burden is estimated at \$229 billion and that does not take into account state and local requirements.

Specifically, H.R. 327 would require each agency to establish one point of contact for small businesses on federal paperwork requirements. In addition, a task force with representatives across federal agencies would be established to examine the feasibility of requiring each agency to reduce, consolidate and harmonize requirements regarding collections of information with respect to small-business concerns.

We urge you to support H.R. 327 and to oppose amendments that would weaken the important paperwork reduction requirements in the bill.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to just make one add-on to the chairman's comments. He had said there were 190 billion hours. It was actually 7.2 billion hours per year in paperwork and 190 billion per year in cost.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OSE. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, when one gets into those figures, it gets very confusing; but the fact of the matter is, it is costing small business people in this country a ton of money.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), my good friend and chairman of the Committee on Small Business.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act. This bill represents an excellent start in reducing the paperwork burdens that are swamping millions of small businesses. If we can get them out from under this deluge, they can devote themselves to hiring workers, investing capital and moving the economy forward.

Twenty years after the passage of the Paperwork Reduction Act, there is no evidence that the government has reduced the amount of paperwork on small businesses. The Federal Government requires the filing of more than 7,700 forms, resulting in nearly 66 million responses with a total burden of more than 7.5 billion man-hours.

The Office of Management and Budget estimates that the annual cost of these paperwork burdens cost the American economy over \$61.7 billion. This is a vast amount of paperwork.

Do we know how much of this burden is imposed on small businesses? Do we know how much of this burden is imposed on particular classes of small businesses? Does the Office of Management and Budget know which forms apply to which businesses? If it does, has that agency considered whether the information is duplicated? This bill, H.R. 327, provides the answers to these questions.

For example, convenience store owners that sell gasoline may have to prepare 46 different Federal forms. That is in addition to the basic forms for starting a business which are numerous, forms related to the sale and service of food, et cetera, et cetera. The forms and their associated instructions for the 46 different forms particularly associated with convenience stores total 250 pages of legal and regulatory prose. I got this information not from the Federal Government, which does not compile according to the function of the retailer or the wholesaler, but from a trade association.

So if someone wants to start a convenience store that sells gasoline, he or she would have to go to seven different Federal agencies. That assumes that they even knew that they should be going to some of those agencies. The situation is simply intolerable. H.R. 327 corrects this problem.

The bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to classify forms by business category, mandates that OMB put the information on the Internet in a user-friendly manner for small businesses, forces Federal agencies to create a single point of contact for small businesses to obtain information concerning paperwork requirements, and creates an interagency task force

to consider ways to reduce and streamline the paperwork burdens now facing small businesses.

As the chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) for moving H.R. 327. I look forward to working with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) on improving the Paperwork Reduction Act to ensure that the Federal Government reduces paperwork burdens on America's small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, the first thing the bill does is require that the OMB identify by North American Industrial Classification or other appropriate industry identification, the forms that every small business must fill out. In essence, a chart would be created that can be reviewed to determine the total number of forms that each agency imposes on each type of small business. OMB could then utilize this identification process to estimate the total burdens imposed on small businesses in each industrial classification. This is vital information that OMB does not yet estimate. OMB should be able to use this information in its internal management of approving existing and new information collection requests under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

There seems to be some concern about using industrial classifications because small businesses do not know their industrial classification. First, any small business that contracts with the Federal Government must know its industrial classification because the Federal Government classifies contracts using the North American Industrial Classification. The Securities and Exchange Commission requires the use of the North American Industrial Classification in all of its filings. So there are many small businesses that already know their industrial classification. And I would expect that OMB would provide a website link to the North American Industrial Classification system so small business owners could actually check their classification. I also would expect that the agency would put the title of the industrial classification in the data it collects for ease of reference in any event.

By itself, that single step would prove valuable to the Federal Government management of paperwork burdens and to the small business community. But H.R. 327, as amended, does more than that. It makes the information available to the small business community in a user-friendly manner. H.R. 327, as amended, requires the agencies to establish a single point of contact within each agency where small businesses can go to obtain information on the paperwork requirements associated with the agency. My colleagues are well aware that within a single Federal agency are numerous subagencies. I see no reason that a small business owner has to negotiate among this multitude in order to find out a simple question—what forms do I need to fill out to comply with the law. The structure of Federal agencies has made this a game. If a small business owner guesses correctly, they might find out what forms they need to fill out; if they guess incorrectly, they might not find out. That is just plain stupid.

H.R. 327 would correct that problem by appointing one person in each agency to act as a central point of contact for small businesses to obtain information on the paperwork requirements associated with its small business. Small businesses then would be able to obtain the appropriate forms from this point of contact. I also would expect that the point of contact would create a website where all of the agency's forms are located for easy downloading by small businesses.

The bill also would establish an interagency task force to address ways to reduce burdens on small businesses. For example, the task force, armed with identification of all appropriate forms identified by industry, could begin to examine processes to improve interagency sharing information so that similar information would not have to be filed with multiple agencies. Or agencies might share knowledge about how to make forms more user-friendly and thereby reduce the time that small businesses expend in completing forms.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MANZULLO. Yes, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I will be happy to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for agreeing to engage in a colloquy. I think it is absolutely imperative on the task force created by the bill to obtain input from the small business community. Does the gentleman from California concur?

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, I concur with the gentleman from Illinois. I certainly would not understand how a task force that is designed to reduce the paperwork burdens on small businesses could accomplish its goal without obtaining input from the small businesses that are buried by Federal reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for clarifying that issue.

I also note that the bill would require the Office of Management and Budget place the information on small business paperwork burdens on the Internet. I agree that this would make the information more accessible.

However, I believe more can be done. I think that OMB should establish a link on its website to the agency point of contact established by the bill. Each agency's website then would have links to the relevant paperwork required for small business. I would like the opinion of the gentleman from California on this point.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the gentleman from Illinois. The bill was intended to make information available in a user-friendly format,

which means making it easy for small businesses to find the relevant paperwork requirements on the Internet. That would include providing appropriate links on OMB's website to the single points of contact established by the bill. In addition, I would expect links on OMB's website to other general access points, such as the FirstGov website and the Small Business Administration's website.

I look forward to working with the distinguished gentleman from Illinois to ensure that the Federal agencies provide appropriate links to this critical information.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, finally, I would like to clarify one point. The bill as introduced required that the information be organized by the North American Industrial Classification System. The amendment would modify that requirement by leaving it up to the discretion of OMB.

Is it the opinion of the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the best method of classifying the information remains the North American Industrial Classification System because that would enable small businesses to best identify the paperwork burdens associated with the particular businesses?

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for raising that critical point. I believe that OMB should classify the information using the North American Industrial Classification System. Otherwise, a small business searching for information on its paperwork burdens might not find the information most applicable to its business. By using the North American Industrial Classification System, it would ensure that restaurants find information relevant for restaurants and not information for steel manufacturers.

In conclusion, I fully agree with the gentleman from Illinois on this point.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the desire that the task force address concerns of the small business community. It is my understanding that is why the task force in fact includes someone from the Small Business Office of Advocacy. That is what they do. So I should not think we would all be surprised about that. I think that should continue and we support that.

But I think it is also important that the task force obtain input from the environmental, public health and the labor communities as well. Because the study, in fact, is looking at the feasibility of streamlining paperwork without negatively impacting underlying protections.

I think, as much as we can all rail here about the need for paperwork re-

duction and streamlining, we all believe that is a good goal. I think few of us would argue that the regulations in fact are there for a purpose. While we are achieving our goal for this bill, we want to make sure we do not undercut the purposes of those regulations that are so important.

I would also like to clarify a point made by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE). I understand his preference of the Office of Management and Budget to use the North American Industrial Classification System. However, I want to ensure that he understands the bill has changed. The bill now states that the information should be organized in such a manner that such small business concerns can easily identify requirements by which they are expected to comply.

If the North American Industrial Classification System is the easiest, then I think that is obviously the one OMB will select. But we should all know that the NAIC categories are used for census purposes and for compiling statistics. OMB may not find that to be the most significant or most proper way to do that, in which case they will use another way of presenting the information.

I thank the chairman for that.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA).

Mr. BACA. Mr. Chairman, I stand in support of this legislation, H.R. 327. If we are not choking small businesses with overburdensome regulations, we are choking them with paperwork.

Today small business owners have to contend with an increased competition with big businesses who are merging and consolidating and putting a squeeze on the little guy. Then they have big government come in, squeezing the little guy with tons of regulations and paperwork. This is why this country is heading into a recession.

Small business is the engine of the economic growth in this country. The biggest employer is the Inland Empire in my area with the largest growth of small businesses.

What we have done is we have stalled the engine. I state we have stalled the engine. We have forced small businessmen and women to spend hours filling out forms. These are hours they cannot spend with customers, their families, vendors, civic organizations.

Time is money. As a former small business owner, I know how tough it can be to keep up with small regulations and forms. I wanted to be a good businessman, not a good form-filler-outer.

For those of us who are in small businesses, we understand what is going on in the world around us and the kind of competition that we are faced with as well. We want to be just as competitive as anybody else. But we also want to spend our time wisely. The way to do

that is to get rid of some of the burdens that we have in the filling out of the paperwork.

In addition, I am also concerned that the President's budget cuts Small Business Administration almost in half from its level of 2000 and that the President's tax plan does not allow for specific tax relief for small businesses.

Small businesses deserve our support and help. They need financing programs. They deserve specific tax relief measures. They need less burdensome regulations and less paperwork.

Let us unharness small business owners and get the engine going again. I ask for support for H.R. 327.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I find myself thanking the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) often, which is good. I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for bringing up the very valid suggestion that the task force should visit with labor and environmental groups in particular. I think that is an excellent point that needs to be in the RECORD.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for this opportunity to come to the floor this morning to urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act. I specifically thank the gentleman from California (Chairman OSE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) for their efforts in this regard.

My good friends, the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO), have introduced and worked with these gentlemen to introduce an important bill to help the new administration protect small business from an ever-expanding regulatory burden.

As the new chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight, I am especially pleased to pick up the regulatory reform mantle from the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and my good friend and predecessor David McIntosh. They did a tremendous job as advocates for small business, and I hope to continue to fight regulatory excess and burdensome paperwork that acts as such an impediment to economic growth and expansion.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, reducing this burden is as important to small businesses as tax relief, because filling out forms competes directly with the business manager's principal goal, growing his or her business. This mountain of paperwork has been the enemy.

In spite of the importance of small business to the success of our economy,

small businesses face serious hurdles. One of the hardships that I have heard over and over again in east central Indiana from small business leaders in my district is the burden of paperwork and Federal red tape.

The Office of Management and Budget estimates the Federal paperwork burden at 7.2 billion hours. What does this mean, Mr. Chairman? It means that it takes an army of 3.5 million workers working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks of the year to simply fill out all of the paperwork the Federal Government requires each year. According to the Office of Management and Budget, this costs the American public \$190 billion a year.

□ 1045

Much of the information that is gathered in this paperwork is important, sometimes even crucial for the government to function. However, too often the paperwork is duplicative and sometimes unnecessary.

Unfortunately, past efforts to fix the paperwork problem have not worked. In 1995, Congress passed amendments to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The goal of the act was to annually reduce the requirements of the Federal Government. These annual reductions in paperwork, however, have not been achieved. In fact, paperwork burdens have increased over the past 5 years.

As my colleagues know, the regulatory burden that the Federal Government imposes on business is staggering. According to the Small Business Administration, it costs large firms \$3,400 per employee to comply with Federal regulations. However, the cost to small businesses is 50 percent greater, a staggering, \$5,100 per employee; and for small businesses, nearly \$2,000 of this cost is for paperwork alone. H.R. 327 starts to deal with these paperwork issues.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the able ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act. As my colleagues may recall, similar legislation was on the House floor during the 105th and the 106th Congresses, which I did not support. H.R. 327, however, does not contain the controversial provisions as in the past years that would have condoned violations of important health and safety laws.

In addition to stripping the bill of the egregious language regarding violations, the majority worked with us to add new provisions that call for agencies to make it easier for small businesses to learn what is expected of

them and improve the dissemination of regulatory information to the public. This bill calls on agencies to work together to create a way for a small business person to be able to contact one agency for information instead of multiple agencies as is currently required.

I especially want to highlight one provision which calls on agencies to work toward an interactive computer system which will allow small businesses to electronically identify information collection requirements. A small business person should be able to go online and determine what are the government requirements with which the business needs to comply.

Just this week the General Accounting Office released a report, *Regulatory Management: Communication About Technology-Based Innovations Can Be Improved*, drafted at my request and the request of Senators LIEBERMAN and THOMPSON. It demonstrates how information technology can and should be used by agencies when they interact with the public to accomplish their missions. The report explains that increased use of information technology in regulatory management has the potential to yield significant benefits, including reducing burden on regulated entities; and I believe the changes to this bill start us on the right track.

Mr. Chairman, of course this bill's attempt to help small businesses should not obscure what this Congress has done to hurt small businesses. This Republican Congress began down the wrong path earlier this month when it included anti-small business provisions in the bankruptcy bill it passed. One such provision created an inflexible trigger which requires a court to order liquidation even if the small business is still viable.

Similarly, the President's budget recently submitted to Congress funding cuts of the Small Business Administration by 46.4 percent. Specifically, the budget eliminates the New Markets Venture Capital program, which provides venture capital and technical assistance to small businesses in less prosperous areas of the country.

In addition, it eliminates the business link program which encourages mentoring between large and small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, although there were a number of additional provisions that I would have liked to see in this bill, because this bill no longer has the violations sections and because some of the Democratic suggestions were included, I urge passage of H.R. 327.

In closing, I would like to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), the subcommittee chairman; the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the full committee chairman; and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY), the subcommittee ranking member. They have worked together to produce a bill that deserves our support.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER).

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that small businesses spend 7.2 billion man-hours to fill out Federal Government paperwork. This means it takes an army of 3.5 million workers, working 8 hours a day, 260 days a year, to fill out the paperwork that the Federal Government requires. Think now, how many government employees it takes to read, file, store, analyze, and then answer this same paperwork.

For the hard-working American people who own and operate small businesses, we must stop these regulations now; and by doing so, we create an opportunity for them to become more efficient, drive down costs, stimulate the economy, and let them spend more time of that 7.2 billion hours with their families and keeping their businesses competitive. It is the American consumer that buys the products from these companies that pays the bill.

Mr. Chairman, once again I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time remains?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to one of our newest Members, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act. In my State of Florida, 98.9 percent of the businesses are small businesses, and 84 percent of the jobs in Florida come from firms having 25 or fewer employees.

Small business ownership is the great gateway to the middle class for many minorities in my State. In Florida, there are over 40,000 small businesses owned by African Americans and over 118,000 Hispanic-owned small businesses. In my home county there are about 9,300 business establishments, 86 percent of which the employment comes from firms employing fewer than 20.

Small business is truly the lifeblood of our economy. Bureaucracy and its attendant costs, however, have invaded nearly every aspect of our economic life. Nowhere does the growing burden of Federal regulation fall more heavily than on small business.

Among the early victories of the Reagan years was the passage of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. The Paperwork Reduction Act targeted several classes of the public for relief, especially the small business commu-

nity. Unfortunately, since that time, the burden of Federal regulation has once again reared its ugly head. Mr. Chairman, that means that 86 percent of the employment is burdened by this hidden tax of \$2,000 per employee.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the passage of H.R. 327.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI).

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, during my career, both in the private sector as a small family businessman, and in the public sector, when I served as supervisor of the largest town in Suffolk County, on Long Island, I have always been a proponent of streamlining the costly bureaucracies that hinder the success of small businesses and stifle the entrepreneurial spirit.

When I ran my family business, I experienced firsthand how encyclopedia-sized applications discouraged owners from competing on government projects. I had to hire additional attorneys, accountants, and consultants just to fill out the basic paperwork. These requirements place unnecessary burdens on the backbone of our Nation's economy, the entrepreneur and the small business owner.

As a local town supervisor, I streamlined and enhanced the planning and review process so small businesses could obtain permits at a faster pace. By streamlining the process, small businesses open faster, expand at a greater rate, create additional jobs, protect our environment, and provide the improvement for the quality of life of all Americans.

This commonsense measure aims to ease the unnecessary burdensome paperwork by requiring public electronic disclosure of all Federal paperwork requirements and establishing a one-stop shop.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that my colleagues join me in passing this resolution.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his leadership. I also thank the committee for its leadership and thank the chairman as well.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to come to the floor to suggest to my colleagues that I wish that we could be doing more. I happen to be a member of the House Committee on Science, and during my tenure on that committee I have often said that small business is the backbone, the infrastructure, of America, along with science. Science is the work of America. In many instances, small businesses are engaged

in activities that generate research and improvements in our quality of life.

I believe the backbone of this legislation is the idea of providing access to small businesses as relates to our Federal agencies. So I am certainly supportive of the aspects that would require Federal agencies to reduce paperwork requirements for very small businesses; and certainly I am very supportive of establishing single points of contacts for information on paperwork requirements and the fact that we are publishing each year a list of all paperwork requirements on small businesses and establishing a task force to study the feasibility of streamlining small business reporting requirements.

But I would like to see us continue outreach activities to small businesses. I think the concept promoted in the last administration of the U.S. General Store, where there was a central point where small businesses could access the Federal agencies and find out how to market products to the Federal agencies and how to work with the Federal agencies, is a concept that this Congress should take up again.

I think this Congress should be looking at how we can lower the cost of health care for our smaller businesses in a manner that provides health care to their employees in an economical way. I think this Congress should be looking at how we can address the energy crisis so that the high cost of fuel is not putting our small businesses out of business. And I would hope that this Congress could as well look at the mobile concerns around the Nation, because it is the employees of small businesses that most suffer in terms of mobility. In particular, my city of Houston is fighting for a light rail system to assist in our mobility and air-quality issues.

So though I come and support this legislation, inasmuch as I believe the economy is driven by small businesses, I think that we will do well to spend a great deal of our legislative agenda in helping to address the questions that really drive small businesses, which is bringing down their health care costs, providing them with regional mobility, and ensuring that they have the kind of lower costs in energy and overhead costs that will keep them strong and vibrant.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I support the legislation and ask my colleagues to continue their work.

□ 1100

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to compliment the gentlewoman from Texas. I look forward to working with her on further relieving the burden on the small businesses that exist in all of our districts. I thought her remarks were right on point.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge all of my colleagues to support the small business paperwork relief act, H.R. 327. Many who have spoken have cited the various benefits of this bill to small businesses: reduced costs, greater efficiency and new jobs. But I would like to highlight yet another benefit of this bill, greater business opportunities for women and more women-owned businesses.

Women have made great strides in the workplace, especially as entrepreneurs. Between the years of 1987 and 1997, the number of women-owned businesses has increased by 89 percent. In my State of West Virginia, small business is 80 percent of the businesses in West Virginia. In February of this year, six of my constituents received Small Business Administration loans. Four of these business owners were women. All of them are happy to receive the financial support, but they would be even happier if the government would remove some of the unnecessary regulations and paperwork that prevent them from doing such things as offering expanded health insurance policies or creating new jobs, all these things that could be done with the costs they expend on filling out large amounts of Federal paperwork.

As leaders entrusted with the responsibility to preserve the ideas that this country was founded on, we need to be constantly vigilant, recognizing these needless barriers that unduly burden small business. We need to be constantly aware and unwilling to tolerate the unnecessary obstacles that prevent all Americans, men and women, from achieving the American dream. If we fail our country and our constituents of this responsibility, then we cheat our national economy of many talented and capable workers and potential commercial assets.

I cannot help but wonder how many more women or minority entrepreneurs we could have if we made starting and running a small business a little bit easier. I urge my colleagues today to recognize this. Today we have the opportunity to preserve and extend the idea of the American dream to millions more women who think that when it comes to starting and running a business it is just too hard. Send them a message that the true entrepreneurial spirit is available to them.

I urge support of H.R. 327, the small business paperwork relief act.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of small business owners and of common sense. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 327, the small business paperwork relief act. Despite the importance of small businesses to our economy, they face serious regulatory hurdles. The single most costly type of regulation is paper-

work compliance. The Office of Management and Budget estimates the Federal paperwork burden at 7.2 billion man hours and \$190 billion each year. These small businesses are drowning in a sea of red tape. The time and money required to keep up with government paperwork prevents small businesses from securing their first priority, growing and creating new jobs.

According to the Small Business Administration, it costs large firms \$3,400 per employee to comply with Federal regulations. But the cost to small business is 50 percent higher, a staggering \$5,100 per employee. This common sense legislation would help ease the paperwork burden by establishing a central Internet site listing all the Federal paperwork requirements for small businesses, allowing small businesses to anticipate the otherwise unknown paperwork hurdles that they must clear in launching new businesses.

As a former small business owner, I have personally witnessed the tremendous strain that paperwork places on small business owners. In fact, in my district in Fanwood, New Jersey, Mary Ellen Cagnassola's small business provides work for my constituents who make the popular scented soaps at Mary Ellen's Sweet Soaps. Mary Ellen is one of thousands of small business owners across the country who employ more than 50 percent of our country's workforce and face a 50 percent higher cost than larger business owners in regulatory paperwork.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill which takes an important first step in trying to lift the paperwork burden that the Federal Government imposes every year on America's small business owners.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of small business owners—and common sense—and ask my colleagues to support H.R. 327, the "Small Business Paperwork Relief Act."

Despite the importance of small businesses to our economy, they face serious regulatory hurdles. The single most costly type of regulation is paperwork compliance. The Office of Management and Budget estimates the federal paperwork burden at 7.2 billion man-hours and \$190 billion a year.

But these small businesses are drowning in a sea of red tape. The time and money required to keep up with government paperwork prevents small businesses from securing their first priority—growing and creating new jobs.

According to the Small Business Administration, it costs large firms \$3,400 per employee to comply with federal regulations. But the cost to small business is 50 percent greater—a staggering \$5,100 per employee.

This commonsense legislation would help ease the paperwork burden by establishing a central Internet site listing all the federal paperwork requirements for small businesses—allowing small businesses to anticipate the otherwise unknown paperwork hurdles they must clear in launching new business.

In addition, it directs each agency to provide a contact for small businesses on paperwork requirements.

As a former small business owner I have personally witnessed the tremendous strain that paperwork places on small business owners.

I have also had the opportunity to speak with other small business owners on this issue. Small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy. In my district, in Fanwood, NJ, Mary Ellen Cagnassola's small business provides work for my constituents who make the popular scented soaps at "Mary Ellen's Sweet Soaps". Mary Ellen is one of thousands of small business owners across the country who employ more than 50 percent of the country's workforce and face a 50-percent greater cost than larger businesses in regulatory paperwork.

Small businesses are responsible for 47 percent of all sales and 51 percent of the private gross domestic product.

But small businesses provide more than just jobs and sales. They offer most initial on-the-job training. And, even more importantly, they are more likely to employ younger and older workers, former welfare recipients and women, many of whom prefer or are able to work only on a part-time basis.

In addition to being centers for training, small businesses are also laboratories of innovation and entrepreneurship. Small businesses give women and minority's a chance to build on their dreams and enhance the communities they live in.

A great source of American strength has always been the dream of economic growth, equal opportunity and upward mobility. Small businesses enable millions, especially women, to access that American dream.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, which takes an important first step in trying to lift the paperwork burden that the federal government imposes every year on America's small business owners.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Chairman, America's small business owners collectively spend thousands of hours and billions of dollars each year filling out government paperwork. A friend of mine, Kent Winquist, is a small business owner in Virginia Beach and Norfolk. He tells me that every week he must maintain and update tax forms, Social Security forms, immigration forms, health care forms and many other mandatory Federal forms just to comply with Federal regulations, or face stiff penalties. Small business owners like Kent are stuck in back offices filling out forms and meeting Federal deadlines instead of training new employees and expanding their businesses. Federal regulatory agencies will continue to hold back small business from thriving in their communities unless we take action.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that less government involvement in our lives will allow us to give more to our communities, our families and our economy.

It is time for us to give small businesses back their time so that they continue to be the engine that drives our economy. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 327, the small business paperwork relief act which will give small business owners more time to invest in their businesses and share with their families.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Chairman, I have been a small business owner for about 10 years. Like many of us, I am sure, I know many hundreds of small business owners across my district, the Lehigh valley of Pennsylvania. There is no question that small business is the critical engine of economic growth and the critical creator of jobs. It is also, I would point out, an amazing source of the charitable contributions in our communities, of volunteer work that goes to improve the quality of life in our communities.

It is a thrill to own a small business if you are fortunate enough to have a successful one. There is a great satisfaction in creating a business from scratch and employing people and seeing that become productive. But it is also an enormous challenge. There is a great deal of worry, whether you are going to make that payroll every Friday, whether you are going to have the funds to make that bank payment that is coming due next week, how are you going to figure out how to innovate and stay alive in business.

What we in government ought to be doing is we ought to be finding ways to reduce the obstacles that we impose on the small businesspeople of America who achieve this great success. The two big things we can do is we can relieve the tax burden, the enormous tax burden that small business owners contend with every day. We can support the President's proposal and in fact expand on the President's proposal for tax relief and do wonders for small business. The other thing we can do is reduce the regulatory burden. H.R. 327 clearly does that. This is a very constructive step to give small business owners the time and energy to be able to spend productively improving their business, creating more jobs and more opportunity. That is what we ought to be doing here.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 327. I congratulate the members of the committee who have made this possible.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2001.

It is estimated that small business owners spend at least a billion hours each year filling out government paperwork at a cost of \$100 billion. For companies with fewer than 20 employees, paperwork regulations cost \$2,017 per employee per year. For those with 20 to

499 employees, paperwork regulations cost \$1,931 per employee per year. This is simply unacceptable.

Although there have been attempts to mitigate this burden in the past, they are clearly not working. In fact, the Office of Management and Budget's FY 2000 Information Collection Budget shows that there have been increases in paperwork in each of the last 5 years. Such figures reinforce the notion that the Federal Government is simply a regulatory beast, better suited to imposing complex rules and creating extra work for the American people than being a source of assistance.

This has to stop. Every effort must be made to make it as easy as possible for small businesses to conduct business with, and abide by the rules of, the Federal Government. H.R. 327 goes a long way toward making this a reality, and I commend Chairman BURTON for his leadership in bringing this bill before the House so early in this Congress. H.R. 327 makes it easy for small businesses to find out their paperwork obligations by requiring that a comprehensive, annual list be published on the Internet and in the Federal Register. It also requires every agency to establish a single point of contact to act as a liaison to small businesses. Finally, it requires every agency to make special efforts to reduce paperwork for businesses with fewer than 25 employees, and establishes a task force to study the feasibility of streamlining reporting requirements for all small businesses.

Small businesses have a hard enough time trying to survive in the competitive marketplace. There is no reason not to minimize the amount of resources that they must divert from conducting business to complying with the Federal Government. I urge my colleagues to fully support this bill.

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 327, the "Small Business Paperwork Relief Act."

The Office of Management and Budget estimates that small businesses spend 7.2 billion man hours to fill out federal paperwork.

This means it takes an army of 3.5 million workers, working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, to fill out the paperwork the Federal Government requires. Think now, how many government employees it takes to read, file, store, analyze, and answer the same paper.

And according to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, this burden costs the American public \$229 billion per year, and this does not take into account state and local requirements.

For the hard-working Americans who own and operate small businesses we must ease these regulations.

By doing so, we create an opportunity for them to become more efficient, drive costs down, stimulate the economy, and let them spend more of that 7.2 billion hours of paperwork with their family and keeping their business competitive.

As most of my colleagues know, it costs money to comply with the regulations the federal government requires. According to the Small Business Administration it costs large firms \$3,400 per employee to comply with federal regulations. However, it costs small businesses 50 percent more—an amazing \$5,100 per employee.

How can we sit here and continue to justify this burden on our friends and neighbors who are just trying to fill out mandated paperwork.

Let me just tell you about redundant paperwork. In Idaho we have a small business, Land Mark Promotions, who every now and then ships items overseas.

In order to compete internationally they are required to fill out a shipper export declaration, a certificate of origin, maintain a harmonized export number, and have four to five copies of the invoice, I think we can do better than that and abolish the duplication process in these type of regulations.

In a time where our economy is slowing down, let us free up small business so they can work on job training, innovations, and productivity.

And if anyone can tell me how 7.2 billion hours of bureaucratic paperwork is productive, I have some ocean front property in Idaho.

Mr. Chairman, let us get back to common sense, streamline the requirements for small business, get the monkey off the back of small business owners so they can help this economy grow, and support the "Small Business Paperwork Relief Act."

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, anyone who's ever been to Oregon knows that the backbone of our local economy are small businesses and family farms.

Unfortunately, the time and money required to keep up with government paperwork prevents them from growing and creating new jobs.

For example, I recently heard from a local funeral home owner whose business has been in his family for three generations—and was astounded to learn of the increasing mountain of paperwork that he's had to deal with over that time period.

And according to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), this individual isn't alone—paperwork counts for one-third of all total federal regulatory costs (over \$230 billion a year).

I think it would be great if we could get more agencies to work with small businesses to solve their differences instead of immediately taking an adversarial relationship with them.

That's why I support the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act, because it gives Oregon's entrepreneurs some much-needed relief from federal redtape.

Specifically, it would put on the Internet a comprehensive list of all the Federal paperwork requirements for small businesses organized by industry, and it would establish a paperwork czar in each agency who is the point of contact for small businesses on paperwork requirements.

Finally, it would establish a task force, including representatives from the major regulatory agencies, to study how to streamline reporting requirements for small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 391.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act. Small business is the backbone of our Nation's economy. In fact small businesses are the largest employer in the State of Missouri. 96 percent of all businesses have fewer than 100 employees in Missouri. For Missourians the success and prosperity of our State quite literally depends on the success and prosperity of our small businesses.

Which is why I am an ardent supporter of the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act. This act works to reduce the overwhelming paperwork requirements imposed on small businesses by federal agencies.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to give you an idea of the total requirements that the Federal Government forces on small businesses: For firms with fewer than 20 employees, paperwork regulations cost \$2,017 per employee per year. This is the single most costly type of regulation.

I spoke with Jim Oldebeken, a constituent in my district, and he stated that in order to be in compliance with OSHA's paperwork requirements, small business owners must know and understand the entire OSHA code—which happens to be longer than the Bible—both New and Old Testament. On average, small business owners spend more time reading, filling out, and filing paperwork than they spend on protecting their employees and making their workplace safe. Another constituent of mine, Bruce Copsey, who owns Hollaway Telephone Co. in Maitland, MO, estimates that he spends three times as much time filing out paperwork today than he did when he opened his business in 1988.

Mr. Chairman, I believe these small businessmen share the same concerns as many of my constituents and small business people across the country. It is not that they do not want to comply with government standards; they just do not want the act of compliance and the art of filling out paperwork to become their job. Small businesses are vital to the economic success of our nation, and they provide millions of good jobs across this nation. The Paperwork Relief Act will streamline the regulatory paperwork process for small business owners. As we deliberate in this body how best to stimulate our economy and insure that there is an abundance of good jobs available, there will be few bills that have the potential to have the sort of impact that this legislation will have on the job providers of our nation. Without regulatory reform and a reduction in the unnecessary regulations and paperwork, our small business people and the jobs that they create will be placed in jeopardy unnecessarily. This bill recognizes the importance of our small business community and the detrimental effect that unnecessary red-tape and regulations has on our small businesses. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues today to join me in supporting our small businessmen and women across the country by passing the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) for the leadership he has shown on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, who has been a gentleman in this entire process, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1 shall be considered by section

as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and each section is considered read.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will designate section 1.

The text of section 1 is as follows:

H.R. 327

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Paperwork Relief Act".

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any amendments to section 1?

The Clerk will designate section 2.

The text of section 2 is as follows:

SEC. 2. FACILITATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE DIRECTOR OF OMB.—Section 3504(c) of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Paperwork Reduction Act"), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking "and" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(6) publish in the Federal Register on an annual basis—

"(A) a list of the requirements applicable to small-business concerns (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.)) with respect to collection of information by agencies, organized in such a manner that such small-business concerns can easily identify requirements with which they are expected to comply (e.g., organized by North American Industrial Classification System code and industrial/sector description (as published by the Office of Management and Budget)); and

"(B) the agency that issued each such requirement and the website address for such agency; and

"(7) make available on the Internet the information described in paragraph (6)."

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY POINT OF CONTACT.—Section 3506 of such chapter 35 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) In addition to the requirements described in subsection (c), each agency shall, with respect to the collection of information and the control of paperwork, establish one point of contact in the agency to act as a liaison between the agency and small-business concerns (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.))."

(c) ADDITIONAL REDUCTION OF PAPERWORK FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESSES.—Section 3506(c) of such chapter is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "and" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (3)(J), by striking the period and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) in addition to the requirements of this Act regarding the reduction of paperwork for small-business concerns (within the meaning

of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.)), make efforts to further reduce the paperwork burden for small-business concerns with fewer than 25 employees."

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE REGARDING PUBLICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall publish the first list of requirements required under paragraph (6) of section 3504(c) of title 44, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), and make such list available on the Internet as required by paragraph (7) of such section (as added by subsection (a)), not later than the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any amendments to section 2?

The Clerk will designate section 3.

The text of section 3 is as follows:

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE TO STUDY STREAMLINING OF PAPERWORK COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS AND DISSEMINATION FOR SMALL-BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end of subchapter I the following new section:

"§3521. Establishment of task force on feasibility of streamlining information collection requirements and dissemination

"(a) There is hereby established a task force (in this section referred to as the 'task force') to study the feasibility of streamlining requirements with respect to small-business concerns regarding collection of information and strengthening dissemination of information.

"(b) The members of the task force shall be appointed by the Director, and shall include the following:

"(1) At least two representatives of the Department of Labor, including one representative of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and one representative of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"(2) At least one representative of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"(3) At least one representative of the Department of Transportation.

"(4) At least one representative of the Department of the Treasury.

"(5) At least one representative of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

"(6) At least one representative of each of two agencies other than the Department of Labor, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, and the Small Business Administration.

"(7) At least two representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services, including one representative of the Health Care Financing Administration.

"(c) The task force shall examine the feasibility of requiring each agency to consolidate requirements regarding collections of information with respect to small-business concerns within and across agencies without negatively impacting the effectiveness of underlying laws regarding such collections of information, in order that each small-business concern may submit all information required by an agency—

"(1) to one point of contact in the agency;

"(2) in a single format, or using a single electronic reporting system, with respect to the agency; and

"(3) on the same date.

"(d)(1) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Small Business

Paperwork Relief Act, the task force shall submit a report of its findings under subsection (c) to—

“(A) the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Small Business of the Senate; and

“(B) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(2) Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of such Act, the task force shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (1) a report examining strengthening dissemination of information and including—

“(A) recommendations for implementing an interactive system for the requirements in section 3504(c)(6) that would allow small-business concerns to identify information collection requirements electronically;

“(B) guidelines for each agency for developing interactive reporting systems that include a component that edits the information submitted by a small-business concern for consistency;

“(C) recommendations for electronic dissemination of such information; and

“(D) recommendations, created in consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council (established pursuant to Executive Order 13011, issued July 16, 1996), for the coordination of information among the points of contact described in section 3506(i), so that those points of contact can provide small-business concerns with information collection requirements from other agencies.

“(e) As used in this section, the term ‘small-business concern’ has the meaning given that term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.).”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3520 the following new item:

“3521. Establishment of task force on feasibility of streamlining information collection requirements and dissemination.”.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any amendments to section 3?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) having assumed the chair, Mr. FOSSELLA, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 327) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, pursuant to House Resolution 89, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 50]

YEAS—418

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)

Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLaunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson

Filner
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde

Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klecza
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)

Ackerman
Boyd
Cannon
Davis, Tom
Evans

Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrock

NOT VOTING—14

Ganske
Gephardt
Hilleary
Hoekstra
Jones (NC)

Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Simmons
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velázquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1135

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inquire about next week's schedule.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the distinguished majority leader, for the purposes of apprising us of the schedule for next week.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I did not get the gentleman from Maryland's comment. I missed it.

Mr. HOYER. I said I would yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader, for the purposes of informing Members about the schedule.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding. I thought I had heard the gentleman say "distinguished." I just wanted to hear him say it again. I thank the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week.

The House will next meet for legislative business on Tuesday, March 20, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 o'clock p.m. for legislative business.

The House will consider a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices tomorrow.

On Tuesday, no recorded votes are expected before 6 o'clock p.m.

On Wednesday, March 21, and Thursday, March 22, the House will meet at 10 o'clock a.m. for legislative business.

The House will consider the following measures:

H.R. 802, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act;

H.R. 247, the Tornado Shelters Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are working with several committees at this time that may have further business ready for consideration on the floor next week. My office will advise the Democratic leadership and the House as soon as further floor business is ready to be announced this afternoon and tomorrow.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas, the majority leader, indicates that there are some possibilities of discussions with some of the committees resulting in bills being reported to the floor.

Would the gentleman be able to inform us as to what those possibilities are, realizing they may or may not come to the floor? Do we know what

the possible bills that might come to the floor would be?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for his inquiry.

I am working with a lot of committees. Quite frankly, at this point, I cannot tell the gentleman what they might be. I do not see anything that would be controversial in the mix of things that might be available, but we certainly will advise the Members and the leadership as soon as we can find something, whatever it is.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, particularly for his observation that if something came that we did not hear about today, the probability is it would not be controversial.

Mr. ARMEY. I would expect nothing controversial.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when does the leader expect the next tax bill to come to the floor? Do we have any information on that?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I want to thank the gentleman for his inquiry.

I just spoke with the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. He is working out a few details for an announcement he expects to make this afternoon. It will be a very public announcement.

I believe it will serve the interests of the body best for us to wait for the chairman to make that announcement, rather than for me to speculate at this time.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that response.

Would I be correct, however, in concluding from the gentleman's remarks that there would not be anything controversial coming to the floor next week?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I would expect nothing from the Committee on Ways and Means, certainly not a major tax bill. Perhaps they may have something that would be noncontroversial. That basic characterization of noncontroversial I would apply to anything that we should expect on the floor next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for his information.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 19, 2001, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on

Tuesday, March 20, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute speech requests.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGE BATCHELOR, FOUNDER OF THE BATCHELOR CHILDREN'S CENTER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, George Batchelor, for his wonderful philanthropy and generosity in founding the Batchelor Children's Center, a state-of-the-art facility housing the University of Miami's bench and clinical research programs in childhood diseases.

As one of only a handful of children's research centers in the Nation, the Batchelor Children's Center will enable an unprecedented collaboration among scientists. Scheduled to open in May, 2001, it will attract the best scientific minds and provide an atmosphere conducive to finding cures and treatments for cystic fibrosis, for cancer, leukemia, and other diseases plaguing children.

George Batchelor's son, Falcon, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at the age of 14. Specialists projected that Falcon would only live to age 17; but George, refusing to accept that, began bringing his son to the University of Miami's cystic fibrosis center. Falcon lived to be 35, and George said that the 20 quality years he spent with Falcon after his first visit to UM was a gift that he will never be able to repay.

Today I pay tribute to George for returning the gift of health for his son with the gift of hope for parents and their suffering children.